

In another embodiment of the invention, the smart cartridge receives content in the native format of the destination gaming device. In such an embodiment, the smart cartridge acts as a memory card and permits the gaming device's microprocessor direct access to the stored content.

Because of the bi-direction communication offered by the smart cartridge, two or more persons can be connected via a global network such as the public internet and have two-way communication facilitated by such protocols as instant messaging, e-mails, games, etc.

We claim

1. A smart cartridge for gaming units, comprising one or more microprocessors, one or more memory modules configured as ROM, one or more memory modules configured as RAM, software, one or more modules configured to provide connectivity to a content source, and one or more modules configured to provide connectivity to a gaming unit.
2. The smart cartridge of claim 1 further comprising a module configured to provide mass storage.
3. The smart cartridge of claim 2 where the mass storage device is removable.
4. The smart cartridge of claim 1 where the connection to the content provider is via a wireless connection.
5. The smart cartridge of claim 1 further configured to obtain content from a decentralized network.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO ADD FUNCTIONALITY TO HAND HELD GAMING DEVICES

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